

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 18-34 are pending in the application. The claims were subject to a restriction requirement as set forth in the Office Action dated December 22, 2006. Applicant confirms its election of Species A, corresponding to claims 18-27, which was made by telephone. Accordingly, claims 18-27 are currently under consideration, and claims 28-34 have been withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claim 18 was considered anticipated by International Pub. No. WO 02/12039 ("Wilde et al.") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 18 and 19 were considered anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,530,528 ("Breyer et al.") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 21-27 were considered anticipated by, or in the alternative, obvious over Wilde et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a), respectively. Lastly, claims 20-27 were considered anticipated by, or in the alternative, obvious over Breyer et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103(a), respectively.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claim rejections set forth in the Office Action are traversed for the reasons provided below.

Telephone Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Lee for agreeing to the telephone interview that took place on February 2, 2007. During the interview, Applicant discussed the combination of features now recited in amended claim 18. The significance of this combination of features will be explained below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102, § 103

A desirable feature by the electromagnetic valve of claim 18 is the ability to secure the valve housing into the valve accommodating member against axial motion in both directions in a one-step process. This is accomplished by a unique combination of structural features that collectively allow for secure installation in one step. The combination includes a housing being formed of a lower (or first) tubular body and an upper (or second) tubular body, an end of the second tubular body circumscribing an end of the first tubular body, a valve-accommodating member into which the first tubular body remote from the second tubular body is inserted, and a portion extending radially outwardly from the end of the second tubular body that circumscribes the first tubular body that is calked in the valve-accommodating member.

Using the above-outlined arrangement, a single calking process will anchor the upper sleeve against movement in both axial directions (up and down in Applicant's drawing figures) and simultaneously mount the lower sleeve into the bottom of the valve. Additional mounting components or connections, such as bushings, welds or folding connections, are not needed.

In view of the foregoing, claim 18 has been amended to recite an electromagnetic valve having, among other elements, a valve housing being formed of a first and a second tubular body, said two tubular bodies with their ends being joined in sections in each other and including a joining portion, with an end of the second tubular body circumscribing and end of the first tubular body, a valve-accommodating member into which the section of the first tubular body remote from the second tubular body is inserted wherein the end of the second

tubular body circumscribing the first tubular body includes a portion extending radially outwardly that is calked in the valve-accommodating member. Support for amended claim 18 is provided in Applicant's specification and drawings, including but not limited to page 3, lines 1-21 of the substitute specification (clean copy) and Fig. 1, among other sections. No new matter has been added.

The above-outlined combination of features is not disclosed in or suggested by any of the cited references, taken alone or in combination. Wilde et al. secures the second sleeve in the valve accommodating member by using an extra part (i.e. the securing bush 43), rather than calking the second sleeve into the valve accommodating member. See Fig. 2. The upper tube is not calked. Instead, the bush 43 is calked over the upper tube. Although the calking process will press fit the lower tube in place, the best that can happen with the upper tube is anchoring in one axial direction only - the upper tube cannot be anchored against downward motion.

In Breyer et al., it's not clear where the first tube 45 is. Assuming that the first tube is the inner tube 44 and the second tube is the outer tube 24, there is no calking connection. The outer tube is secured by threaded collar 54, which anchors the outer tube, but does nothing to secure the inner tube 44.

Accordingly, claim 18 is believed to be allowable over the cited references.

Claims 19-26 are dependent on claim 18 and incorporate all the features recited in claim 18. Therefore, claims 19-26 are believed to be allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons that claim 18 is allowable.

Applicant has amended claim 19 to make the claim language consistent with the amended portions of base claim 18. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim rejections in view of the amendments and remarks provided above. If the Examiner believes there are any outstanding issues that preclude allowance at this time, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at 610-407-0700.

Respectfully submitted,



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